

HAPPENINGS

Dream • Inspire • Belong



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A MESSAGE FROM ALEXANDRA

WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF HAPPENINGS!

It's always a pleasure to reflect on the latest 'happenings' around Community Living Oakville and celebrate our success along the way. Since our last edition which spoke to being re-accredited from The Council on Quality and Leadership, we kicked the year off on a positive note!

Many of the highlights you will see in this issue and across our social media channels, involve being active in our community in collaboration with our generous partners. These past few months are also reflective of our commitment to quality services, supports and advocating for inclusion.

Some memorable moments over the past while include, celebrating International Women's Day at Sheridan College with the Honourable Anita Anand. We also had the opportunity to celebrate with the United Way during their 'Evening of Celebration' event. Did you know that the United Way has been a longstanding supporter of CLO?

In May, we celebrated 'Community Living Month' across Ontario and Mayor Rob Burton even declared it as 'Community Living Oakville Month' through a formal proclamation. This was also followed by a flag raising ceremony of the CLO flag at Town Tall. The celebrations continued with 'Community Living Ontario Day' at the legislature within Queen's Park, meeting with MPP Effie Triantafilopoulos and MPP Stephen Crawford to advocate for affordable housing, and joining the evening reception with our new Minister Michael Parsa.

In addition, we received our annual visit from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) in May as they conducted a compliance review of a number of homes and files for people supported. We are proud to announce that we achieved 100% compliance during this annual inspection!

Just a couple of weeks ago, we were grateful to see many of you at our Food Truck Friday event in partnership with Sheridan College. Events such as these allow us to educate the public on the importance of community inclusion and the supports CLO provides. Over delicious food and conversation, we also celebrated the unveiling of our new tag line. If you have not heard yet, be sure to read the article enclosed to find out about our new tagline and CLO logo!

We hope you enjoy the stories within this issue and wish you a fun filled summer.

See you at our golf tournament on September 7th!



With warm regards,

Alexandra Hoeck-Murray
Executive Director

DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE

Community Living Oakville joined other Community Living agencies from across Ontario, including Community Living Ontario, and Community Living Toronto, for a fantastic event at the legislative building at Queen's Park. It was a special day dedicated to Community Living Month and we were thrilled to be part of it! We had the opportunity to engage with key stakeholders and policymakers to discuss important initiatives that will help enhance and support Ontario's new strategy for the Developmental Services sector.

A number of our staff attended the Community Living reception in order to speak on behalf of our collective agencies with many other Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament, including Minister Parsa. This event provided an excellent platform for us to share our insights, perspectives, and experiences on various issues related to Community Living.

We firmly believe that inclusion matters, and we are committed to working towards building a more inclusive society. This event was a great way to raise awareness about the importance of Community Living and we were delighted to connect with like-minded individuals and organizations who share our vision.



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“When I work with CLO participants, I receive more than I give. I receive their love, beautiful energy, and happiness. They go home with a smile and that makes my day! Everyone has something to offer and we should pay more attention to everybody. Interacting with CLO participants for me is a learning experience that I value.”

– Patricia Carrasquilla
Owner and teacher of
STREET dog ARTstudio

UNLEASHING CREATIVITY: STREET DOG ART STUDIOS

We are excited to share with you the inspiring work that is being done by Street Dog Art Studios as they merge creativity and inclusivity through art, here in the Town of Oakville.

In the heart of every community lies the spirit of collaboration. Inclusive partnerships are vital for building a community that values and embraces the unique abilities of all its members. Street Dog Art Studios recognizes this and actively involves people with developmental disabilities in their initiatives by providing a platform to express their creativity, creating an environment of empowerment, acceptance and belonging.

Each week, people join Patricia at her studio. Through her guidance and support, participants contribute their distinct perspectives, skills, and talents to simply create.

Her methods not only allow people to express themselves, but they also promote social interactions, skill development and self-confidence.

Establishing partnerships within our neighborhoods can lead to remarkable outcomes, bringing together diverse talents, resources and ideas. Street Dog Art exemplifies the power of such alliances, harnessing the creativity of local artists and promoting each person’s individual artistic expressions.

Join us as we strive to create more inclusive partnerships, embracing diversity and providing equal opportunities for people. Together we can build a society where everyone’s talents are valued and celebrated!

Email Patricia at carrasquillapatricia@yahoo.com or call (416) 278-2093 to schedule your visit!
For collaboration and partnership opportunities with Community Living Oakville please reach out to Andrea Interior at andrea.interior@oakcl.org.



JOB LAUNCH

In 2021, Job Launch began as a virtual pre-employment program to help young adults re-enter the workforce after the effects of COVID-19 on the labour force. Xplore Employment recognized a service gap and evolved Job Launch into a pre-employment program geared toward secondary students with disabilities. Due to the generous funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Community Living Oakville hired an Employment Specialist that facilitated this program successfully for Lifeskills students of the Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) during the 2022-23 academic year.

As a curriculum-based tool, Job Launch uses group activities and discussions to promote employment discovery; helping students identify employable skills needed to meet employer expectations as they begin to map out their path post-graduation. Entering classrooms early is an opportunity to introduce students to the concept of using employment services within their community.



On June 2nd, 2023, Community Living Oakville together with MPP Steven Crawford, and representatives from the HCDSB, gathered at St. Ignatius of Loyola Secondary School, to celebrate the positive impact of Job Launch on the Lifeskills Students of the Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB).

Reaching students earlier than post-graduation is a critical factor that contributes to successfully employed graduates with disabilities. Among all the barriers identified, a person with disabilities faces poor perception of their capabilities by others, often limiting the opportunities presented to them. At Xplore Employment we are working to change that narrative.

Community Living Oakville is pleased to announce that funding has been received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Resilient Communities Fund to implement the Job Launch program in both the Halton Catholic District School Board and the Halton District School Board over the next two years.

LOOKING BACK ON YEAR FOUR: CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023!



Another amazing year has quickly flown by for Project SEARCH Halton and the interns have been diligently laying the ground-work for their future employment and career aspirations with the ongoing support from the Xplore Employment team.

Each year begins with a flurry of exciting activities around getting to know one another and the hospital. We focus on finding our way around the building, finding our way around

new relationships, and finding our way around employment and what all that looks like. The classroom quickly comes alive and takes on a personality as unique as the interns. It's not enough to simply hang previous posters and charts and lists up on the walls again – each year is unique, and the bare walls are authored anew with ideas and insights by each cohort. And, as always, the passage of time is amplified by the busyness and enthusiasm of our interns as they grow in confidence, maturity, and experience.

Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH) was once again the ideal training ground for our interns to participate in the unique opportunity of Project SEARCH.

New internships were developed this year in Equipment Asset Management, the Eye Clinic, and Equipment Helper/Porter which all proved to be rich training environments and expanded the relationships with managers and mentors.

This year also offered opportunities to incorporate a fourth internship for two of our interns, allowing for an opportunity to explore a newfound interest for employment. In addition to all the rich hands-on learning, all our interns received their First Aid & CPR/AED training, and several have passed their Food Handling Certification to augment their skills and increase options.

In recent weeks, we've been working closely with, and connecting interns to, Community Living Oakville's Employment Specialists from Xplore Employment, to support interns with the job search process as they approach graduation. We also celebrated with two interns who were offered positions at the hospital and have already begun working.

It's not a surprise to us when the interns quickly become comfortable in their new environment as they gain hands-on experience alongside new friends, mentors, managers, skills trainers, and our Halton District School Board teacher. In many ways we grow together and support one another throughout the year in what can be, at times, an overwhelming environment.



The 2023 Project SEARCH Halton interns include:

Kealyn

who feels deeply, cares deeply, and has an abundance of joy, laughter, and positive energy that she spreads everywhere she goes.

Christopher (Chris)

a polite, intellectual, and thoughtful gentleman who consistently puts the needs of others ahead of himself.

Marshall

who found balance between independence and teamwork, earnestness and levity, and found friends in all situations (Marshall was our first intern to find employment this year and works at the hospital in Waste & Linen).

Owen

who was shy at first but quickly came out of his shell and developed strong relationships with classmates and staff while bringing his own brand of humour and keen intellect with him.

Brandon

a tall strongman who is dedicated and focussed, is a great team player, enjoys the heavy lifting, and gets the job done (Brandon was also recently hired by OTMH in Waste & Linen).

Abbigail (Abbey)

a quiet observer who notices things, is flexible and adaptable, never says no to a challenge, and knows her way around a computer.

Israel

who is very quiet by nature but has a rich and creative inner life that he expresses through artwork and study of history.

Annopurna (Punna)

an often-shy intern who impresses everyone with her humour, quick wit, willingness to take on a challenge, and impressive Bollywood dancing skills.

As the fourth year wrapped up, we were all very excited to hold the first in-person graduation ceremony at the John Oliver Auditorium at OTMH. It was exciting to see family and friends in even greater numbers as we celebrated the achievements the interns have made throughout the year.

Congratulations graduates of 2023! It is our greatest hope that newly acquired skills, increased confidence, a sense of independence, and an expanded network of friends and coworkers will serve you well in meaningful employment in the future. We are certain that this is just the first of many successes as you venture out and share your uniqueness with the world.

Visit www.projectsearchcanada.org for more information about Project SEARCH Canada.



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IN MEMORY OF BRIAN SUTTON

JANUARY 24, 1949 TO MAY 24, 2023

**WRITTEN BY JODY BLAAUW, MANAGER AT COMMUNITY LIVING OAKVILLE.
JODY HAD THE PLEASURE OF SUPPORTING BRIAN FOR MANY YEARS AND RECOUNTS THE
MEMORIES AND TALENTS BRIAN SHARED WITH THOSE AROUND HIM.**

May 24th 2023, closing a remarkable seventy-four years, Brian made the gentle transition to continue life. It was promised – ‘some day we will no longer see through a glass darkly...’. Freed from material limits we will understand life’s ambiguities and variations more fully. Knowing Brian, I was fortunate to glimpse how his life – expressed through a visible disability like Down Syndrome, changed our community. Adding essence and vitality that, with time, will make his presence forgotten – but his influence will endure.

Joining Community Living Oakville, Mrs. Sutton knew he’d settled when Brian referred to his new house as ‘home’. There he joined Marty, Andrew, Scott and Harry. The harmony and balance was impeccable. The friends were always together at local events – in a growing community. Attending Church, Midnight Madness – Canada Day Celebrations – concerts in Coronation Park – Waterfront Festivals or regular live recitals at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts. Through mutual, reciprocated connection, the gentlemen enjoyed



attending the Hopedale Presbyterian Church where they gently continued to nudge their community’s welcoming understanding of inclusivity. Brian avidly appreciated music – especially classical compositions or band music. He would capture a pencil or pen then passionately, while listening to the radio or a CD, tirelessly conduct the orchestra from his bedroom. At live performances, he occasionally rose from his seat to kindly, yet enthusiastically assist the conductor through a self-appointed ‘back-up’ role as ‘secondary conductor’. No one seemed to mind – but amongst kindred spirits – Brian’s endorsement of the timelessness of music in a rapidly changing world – was inspiring.

He showed his appreciation for music after a performance further, by insisting on visiting the orchestra as the auditorium emptied steadily, where his quiet attentive fascination with each individual instrument gave compliment to their owner’s skill. Life, free from limitations – will offer many opportunities to teachers who continue the passion for the beauty of music – to welcome Brian as a new patron.

At Church street Brian joined an even greater circle of friends – Amanda – Sue – Philip – Tony – Ridol – Linda... and together they would engage the community by supporting local businesses – establishing presence and with the initial help of staff, make new friends. In sync they were a welcome, regular part of the vibrant downtown Oakville community with its iconic lighthouses and main library across the street. There smiles and waves and greetings, played out against a backdrop of changing seasons. Soccer was a favourite and to Brian, a distinct sport. He loved attending or watching a game where his enjoyment was so unmistakable he secured tickets for and attended one of the Pan AM games. Another active pastime saw his circle of friends extended again with T-Ball in the summer with the same welcoming warm effects, Brian enjoyed the social as well as active opportunity when he played.

Over time forgotten – until the luxury of agency transportation became a consistent new comfort – Brian was completely independent using public transit to get to and from home and the next service he was attending. Oakville may have been a small but growing Town but the satisfaction in that independence never left Brian. Greeting familiar transit staff – meeting up with peers and other travelers joining the journey at various stops. Not just as a spectator in this exciting ebb and flow – but always a part of the vista.

Part of effective support involved keeping a watchful eye on a recurrent knee injury. Despite amazing flexibility – because Brian never complained – perhaps he thought that would just be discourteous. Rude. Or just not the way he wanted to be remembered. When he tried to mask the unmistakable limp in his step – one knew, anyone else would be screaming or thrashing about. Not Brian. Pain was just an unwelcome visitor to his demeanour... because it was... just annoying and ‘unpeaceful’.

Another of Brian’s noteworthy abilities was receiving respect from all who knew him through a natural intuitive sense of caring for people and desiring to ensure their wellbeing. This was evident in his friend Harry – who Brian always checked on. They were housemates and Brian would often go to Harry’s room – to politely assure his own need to know all was well. The two friends likely never said more than ‘hi’ but their trust and understanding required no words to be spoken. Caring, politeness and respectful nature were part of many reasons everyone naturally liked Brian. Those were first and last impressions. Being non-judgmental and caring seemed to be foundational nourishment for the soul. He had many friends and was exceptional in having no enemies or even anyone who disliked him. A high standard for anyone to achieve.

"A man of a few words, but with a huge influence."

- Isaac Chakuma

Wanting for little, Brian was gifted with inner peace. A cup of tea (later coffee) offered a deeply silent reflective ceremony, lasting hours if uninterrupted. In simple white fluff, he could see new universes and escape the throngs of this world. Not immune to sadness, he was never unhappy. What mattered most – never material items...more often it was people, could always restore his characteristic smile. His formula for simplicity was so effective he accumulated sufficient funds to be a donor to the Oakville United Way. Three quarters of a century is even more astounding when one is able to realise – without confines of ‘a glass darkly’ how our community – and the world changed. Because of those who chose a road less travelled by, thereby making all the difference. Brian, as I grasp your new journey into the light – I see you teaching about leadership through sacrifice and selfless humility. Only a few of your qualified areas of expertise.

THE ANNIE OLIVER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE



The Annie Oliver Award for Excellence, named after the founding President of OASIS, Annie Oliver, is awarded each year for outstanding contribution to the work of OASIS (Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs). At this year’s OASIS conference, Community Living Oakville’s very own Executive Director, Alexandra Hoeck-Murray, was the recipient of the Annie Oliver Award for Excellence. Alexandra was recognized for her leadership, excellence and innovation in the developmental services sector that has been instrumental in helping OASIS achieve its mission.

Alexandra is committed to quality enhancement and ensuring that the services and supports provided by Community Living Oakville meet the individual needs and interests of the people accessing services. Alexandra is continuously looking for ways to educate the community, to advocate and raise awareness for full inclusion and she supports others to do the same. With her leadership, people feel empowered to be creative, innovative and to push the boundaries on what can be done. She is the definition of a leader who leads by example.

Congratulations Alexandra on this well-deserved recognition!

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY & THE BIG ANNOUNCEMENT!

We are thrilled to share the outstanding success of our recent Food Truck Friday event! The event was a true testament to the power of community collaboration, delicious food, and heartfelt connections. Amidst the festivities, we had an exciting announcement to make – the results from our tagline contest! After receiving an overwhelming response, the tagline that emerged as the crowd favourite was "Dream Inspire Belong."



The chosen tagline perfectly encapsulates the vision and mission of Community Living Oakville. It embodies our commitment to creating a nurturing and inclusive community where individuals can dream big, inspire others, and truly belong. We are thrilled to embrace this empowering tagline as a guiding principle in all our endeavors.

With the support of our incredible sponsors: Peter and Petrina Nesbitt, The Shorey Family, Sally Mitzel, and Access Abilities, we were able to bring together an array of mouthwatering food trucks. From the delectable offerings of Curbside Foods and Wing Kxng to the irresistible treats from Beavertails and the Ice Cream Truck, there was something for everyone to savor and enjoy.

The event buzzed with excitement as community members and guests gathered to experience the vibrant atmosphere and heartfelt connections. Peter Amponsah, Associate Dean of the School of Community Studies at Sheridan College, captivated the audience with his speech, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between Community Living Oakville and Sheridan College's "Care Disciplines." The synergies between the two organizations were celebrated, promising more collaborative events in the future.

Food Truck Friday brought people together, fostering inclusivity and creating meaningful connections within our community. The event showcased the incredible work of Community Living Oakville and its commitment to providing a platform for impactful discussions and shared experiences.

GET TO KNOW
COMMUNITY LIVING OAKVILLE

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY

JUNE 16 | 12-2 PM

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
SHERIDAN COLLEGE

Sheridan

Community Living
Oakville

We extend our deepest gratitude to our sponsors, whose unwavering support made this event possible. Their belief in our mission and dedication to making a difference in our community is truly commendable. Together, we have created memories that will be cherished for years to come.

As we reflect on the resounding success of Food Truck Friday and the announcement of our tagline, we express our appreciation to everyone who attended, volunteered, and contributed to the event's triumph. Your presence and enthusiasm made all the difference. Thank you for being a part of this extraordinary celebration of community and care.



If you have any questions about upcoming events, reach out to Andrea Interior, Development Manager, at andrea.interior@oakcl.org.

Sheridan



[Check out the event highlights posted on our Instagram!](#)

INCLUSIVE HEROES: FIRST AID & CPR TRAINING

After a 3-year hiatus, Community Living Oakville is back to hosting First Aid & CPR training to people who have a Developmental Disability. This initiative aims to empower and equip people with lifesaving skills while fostering independence and confidence.

In an effort to ensure equal access to lifesaving knowledge, Link2Life has provided programs tailored specifically for people with developmental disabilities, recognizing and adapting the program to meet each person's unique needs. This inclusive approach promotes empowerment and supports the belief that everyone should have the opportunity to contribute to their communities.

Through this training, participants become better prepared to handle emergencies, reducing the risks associated with accidents or health crises; it provides people with the practical skills to respond effectively in an emergency in various settings, including their homes, workplaces and communities.

**LINK
2LIFE**



If you would like more information on this initiative, please reach out to Halton Passport Community Developer, Shania Jagnandan at sjagnandan@cwsds.ca.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE - PATTY

A BEACON OF COMPASSION



At Community Living Oakville, we are privileged to have dedicated staff members who have devoted their lives to making a difference. Today, we shine the spotlight on Patty Ellsmere, a remarkable Direct Support Professional who has been a part of our organization for an inspiring 33 years. Her commitment and passion have had an indelible impact on the lives of countless people. Let's take a moment to appreciate Patty's incredible journey and the invaluable contributions she has made throughout her career.

Patty's journey at Community Living Oakville began in Supported Living, where she worked tirelessly to ensure people were living their best life. Over the years, she demonstrated exceptional dedication and a genuine care for the well-being of those she supported. Her commitment to promoting inclusivity and independence led her to work in various locations, enriching the lives of numerous people along the way.

Currently, Patty is an integral member of the Community Connect team. This role allows her to fulfill her passion for making a difference in people's lives and exposing them to new and enriching experiences. Patty goes above and beyond to ensure that everyone she works with feels valued and empowered. What sets Patty apart is her compassion, her unwavering dedication to her work and her flexibility to adapt to any

curveball that is thrown her way. She believes that everyone deserves a chance to live a fulfilling life and she works tirelessly to ensure an inclusive environment. Her ability to build meaningful connections with persons supported, families, and colleagues is a testament to her warm and welcoming nature.

Outside of her professional life, Patty finds solace in two passions: gardening and spending quality time with her loved ones. As an avid gardener, she cultivates vibrant and beautiful landscapes, mirroring her ability to nurture and foster growth in those around her. She finds joy in creating spaces that evoke peace and tranquility.

When she's not tending to her beloved plants, Patty cherishes moments with her family. As the mother of two wonderful girls and a grandmother to two precious grandchildren, she understands the importance of nurturing relationships and creating lasting memories. Her dedication to both her professional and personal life exemplifies her commitment to enriching the lives of others.

Patty's journey serves as an inspiration to us all, reminding us of the power of empathy, kindness, and the difference one person can make. We express our heartfelt gratitude to Patty for her remarkable service and look forward to continuing our journey together, transforming lives and building a more inclusive future for all.

“

Patty's readiness to jump in and assist others showcases her commitment to putting people's needs first. She goes above and beyond to ensure that everyone she works with is fully included in their community, fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment.

”

TAKING THE ARTIST ROUTE

On May 18th, Marty, Annie, Carol, Blain and Stella had the opportunity to take their love for music to the next level and visit the SiriusXM Rock and Roll radio station in Toronto, located in the Globe and Mail building, between King St. and Front St.

When they arrived, they were met by Siobhan, the Music Programmer, who took them up in the private elevator to the 10th floor. After signing in, they followed the path that artists take, starting off in the Green Room where all the celebrities wait to be interviewed.



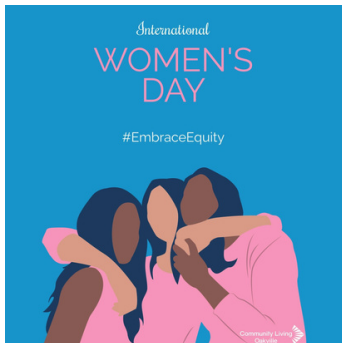
They then got a tour of the recording studios, where they learned about the difference between the interview recording studio and that of the music studio.

While walking through the station, whose walls are filled with pictures of celebrities, Annie, Blain, Carol, Marty and Stella shared who their favourite artists were and whose music they like the best. And of course, no tour of a Canadian music studio would be complete without a photo-op holding a Juno Award!

The tour ended on the balcony of the 10th floor studio, where everyone enjoyed the beautiful view of Toronto and Lake Ontario.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



This year's International Women's Day theme, #EmbraceEquity, focused on creating inclusive environments, practices and systems for all.

Downtown Oakville's blog author asked our Executive Director, Alexandra, what is the most important message she wants to send out to young women thinking about their careers?

"Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality. Collectively we can all #EmbraceEquity. Celebrate women's achievement. Raise awareness about discrimination. Take action to drive gender parity."

EXPLORING THE WORLD OF TRAINS: JAMES' UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

James Cluderay has grown up with a fascination for trains and locomotives that began in childhood. In his youth, James traveled across Canada on a train with his parents and an affinity for locomotives sprouted and has been growing ever since. James' love, respect and admiration for trains is infectious. One of the positive outcomes of this passion is that he has come to know and has formed relationships with a number of train operators and employees in the Oakville area- often getting a friendly "toot" from any number of the drivers when he sees them out in the community.



He learned how to speed up the train, read the railway signs, use the horn systems while approaching railway crossings, and what to do when there is wildlife on the track.

James navigated all these learning obstacles with incredible ease and certainty and thrived in the conductor's seat!

Once James was finished with the simulator, the Via Rail Manager of Train Operations gave James a tour of the facilities. James was able to look at the tracks, explore some restoration projects that are happening on site, visit the maintenance centre where trains are worked on, and even popped into the train wash!

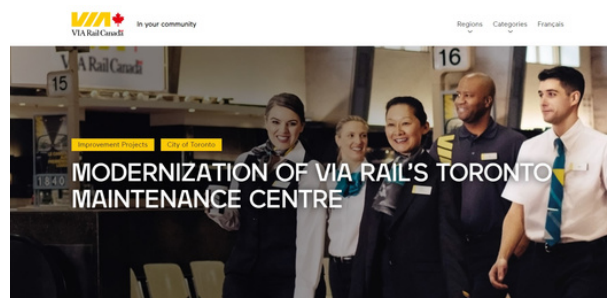


"James was a refreshing change and a pleasure to be around... Thanks for letting Via Rail engage others in a meaningful way!"

- Via Rail Train Operations Manager



On Thursday May 4th James was invited to head down to the Via Rail Toronto Maintenance Centre in Etobicoke. James was able to tour the entire facility and he was blown away by the experience. James had the opportunity to meet several Via Rail engineers, walk around and explore the maintenance centre, preview some of the ongoing construction at the site and operate the Train Simulator - a top of the line computerized system used to train Via Rail engineers themselves! Operating the train simulator was absolutely the highlight of the visit. The newly installed system is incredibly high-tech, offering engineers the chance to learn how to drive the trains and get accustomed to all the digital and mechanical devices on board. James was easily able to navigate the systems with tons of confidence and professionalism (the engineers reported that he did better than most trainees learning to drive in their training programs!) James was really impressed by the technology and took full advantage of the opportunity.



MAY IS COMMUNITY LIVING MONTH

Each year Community Living Associations celebrate inclusion across the province and encourage local services and businesses to create inclusive and welcoming environments. During the month of May, Community Livings across Ontario recognize and celebrate the successes of creating inclusive communities for people with developmental disabilities.

Once again, we joined in with Community Living Ontario as they asked agencies to Shine a Light throughout the province. Oakville Town Hall lit up blue and green on the evening of April 30th to kick things off!

On May 1st, Mayor Rob Burton made an incredible heart-felt proclamation declaring May as Community Living Oakville Month! This is a wonderful tribute to the importance of supporting people with developmental disabilities in our community. Mayor Burton was joined by Alexandra Hoeck-Murray, Executive Director of Community Living Oakville, as they highlighted the importance of inclusion and the tremendous impact it has on the lives of those with disabilities.

And for the first time, the Community Living flag was raised at Town Hall as friends, family and people supported of CLO gathered once again with Alexandra and Mayor Burton. This was a great opportunity to come together as a community, to raise our flag and our voices, and to make a real difference in the lives of those around us.

Let's all come together, not just during Community Living Month, and show our support for a more inclusive and welcoming community. Thank you to our wonderful community for helping us continue to provide quality supports and services to people who have a developmental disability. We couldn't do this without you!



FAMILY CORNER

As you get geared up for the summer, keep a lookout for more information to come on some exciting things ahead!

- Family Roundtable
- CLO's New Family Group
- 37th Annual Golf Tournament

For more information, reach out to Andrea Interior, Development Manager: andrea.interior@oakcl.org.

Community Living
Oakville

**37TH ANNUAL
GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

**THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 7, 2023**

MORNING LADIES "9 & DINE"
7:30AM - 1:30PM

**AFTERNOON 18-HOLE
TOURNAMENT**
12:00PM - 8:00PM

PIPERS HEATH GOLF CLUB
MILTON, ON

EMPOWERING LIVES, INSPIRING GRATITUDE AND BUILDING COMMUNITY

The volunteers at Community Living Oakville are paramount: They mentor, support, and positively impact the lives of persons supported at CLO.

“

**ALONE,
WE CAN DO SO LITTLE;
TOGETHER,
WE CAN DO SO MUCH.**

”

HELEN KELLER

We extend our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all those who dedicate their time and energy to make a difference in the lives of others. We are grateful for your unwavering commitment as you empower people with developmental disabilities to lead fulfilling lives and contribute to a more inclusive and compassionate society.

Marlyne Van Exan
Amber DeWal
Bianca G Urena De Oleo
Claudia Cortes
Cliff Qu
Emily Zhu
Estefany Ruiz
Gurpreet Singh
Harshil Khera
Huong Dang
Ian and Iren Hallford
Kamel Idjakrine
Kenfry Rodriguez
Marzia Aziz and Fauzy Aziz
Matt Tran
Raulina Sanchez
Deepika Anandakrishnan
Sonam Sharma
Yusra Chauhdry
Clare Caporol

Thank You

A SPECIAL THANK YOU: OAKVILLE LIONS CLUB



We want to say a special thank you to the Oakville Lions Club. Through their generosity the past several months, they have been greatly influential in enhancing the quality of lives of people we support.

The Oakville Lions Club answered a need for someone to receive a new mattress and bed frame, sponsored one-year memberships for 24 people to visit the Toronto Science Centre, secured our weekly baseball diamond for the Halton agencies' summer league, and even outfitted the entire CLO baseball team with new customized t-shirts to proudly wear for their games!

We are grateful the Oakville Lions Club is one of our dedicated community partners and advocates. Thank you for your commitment, kindness, and generous support.



WE CALL UPON FAMILY MEMBERS, STUDENTS, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO WISH TO BE MORE INVOLVED WITH COMMUNITY LIVING OAKVILLE AND WHO WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WE SUPPORT.

There are many different volunteer opportunities to consider:

- Mentoring a person we support
- Facilitating activities of interest, such as teaching someone a new skill
- Participating in recreation & leisure activities
- Transportation support
- Preparing & facilitating upcoming events
- Assisting with fundraising initiatives
- Becoming a CLO ambassador by engaging with community members to promote CLO

Have a great idea? We would love to hear from you!

Contact Shannon Douglas, Engagement & Training Coordinator, at shannon.douglas@oakcl.org.



ANTHONY'S LOVE FOR COOKING

As a young child, Anthony wasn't particularly interested in playing with toys; instead, what he loved to do was to play with pots and pans in the kitchen. This love for cooking was modelled by his mother – a woman who spent lots of time in the kitchen preparing meals for the family. Anthony and his mother began to prepare meals together and when he was thirteen years old, Anthony's father got him a job as a dishwasher in a restaurant. He was so young that he had to stand on milk crates to reach the machines, but he was happy to be there learning new skills and participating in the industry. Anthony pursued a degree in Culinary Arts through George Brown College and began a career in the food industry as a full-time cook after graduation.

Anthony spent many successful years working in food services, and though he has since retired from the industry because of the challenging hours, his love for cooking has continued. Anthony now enjoys cooking meals for himself and on occasion for his family; he even put on an extravagant brunch for his sister's engagement party that included a homemade pasta bar! Anthony has hopes of continuing to do smaller scale events for friends and family. He would also love to host an online cooking class for others looking to learn new culinary skills and have some fun doing it.

ANTHONY'S TOMATO SAUCE

Ingredients

- 2 cans of San Marzano peeled tomatoes
- 4 garlic cloves
- ¼ diced sweet onion
- 5-6 fresh basil leaves
- 1 teaspoon of sugar (reduces acidity in sauce)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions

- In a food processor/blender puree tomatoes, garlic, onion, and fresh basil leaves
- Heat a saucepan on low with 1 teaspoon of olive oil
- Add the puree to the pan
- Cook for 3-4 minutes
- Add 1 full can (empty tomato can) of water to the sauce
- Add 1 teaspoon of sugar
- Season puree with salt and pepper to taste
- Cook for 45mins- 1 hour

Note: The longer you cook the sauce the better the flavor. When possible, let the sauce simmer for 3-4 hours on the stove and enjoy!



Community Living Oakville is dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with developmental disabilities. We're on the lookout for talented individuals who are passionate about making a difference and joining our incredible team!



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